United Nations A/69/136

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 98 (f) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from July 2013 to June 2014.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre supported Member States in the region in their implementation of international disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments, most notably the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, by carrying out 55 assistance activities. The main focus of the Regional Centre's activities was to assist States in their efforts to combat illicit small arms trafficking and to address the negative impact of such illicit trafficking on public security. The Centre supported the destruction of 8,181 weapons and 3.7 tons of ammunition, as well as improvements in the management and safeguarding of weapon stockpiles throughout the region. The Centre trained more than 400 officials from the security sectors of States on various aspects of small arms control, including marking and record keeping; tracing; stockpile management; and destruction. With a view to supporting future implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (General Assembly resolution 67/234 B), the Centre developed an introductory training manual and a model end-user certificate. The Centre also actively promoted public policy dialogue on small arms control and relevant legislative support, reaching out to national authorities throughout the region. With

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regard to weapons of mass destruction, the Centre launched its new Caribbean programme aimed at the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Centre also provided legal assistance with regard to the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and supported the establishment of national implementation entities in the Andean region. The Centre made concerted efforts to promote the participation of women and to enhance their contribution to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including through a training course exclusively for female security sector officials in Central America.

The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Member States and other partners that supported the Regional Centre's operations and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions, and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre in order to sustain and increase the number of activities that it carries out in response to requests by Member States in the region.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/60, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its Member States, and encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development, and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States of the region.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its sixty-ninth session. The present report, submitted pursuant to that request, covers the activities of the Regional Centre from July 2013 to June 2014. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America in 2013 is contained in the annex to the report.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. The Regional Centre is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Main areas of activity

4. As issues related to security and disarmament remained high on the national and regional agendas of Latin American and Caribbean countries, Governments of States in the region continued to make concerted efforts to integrate disarmament and non-proliferation into public security policies. Among the many challenges facing countries in the region is the illicit circulation of weapons, which continues to pose a grave threat to the safety of communities and undermines the sustainable development of Latin American and Caribbean States. In response to the transnational nature of this public security challenge, States in the region have taken a holistic approach to implementing relevant international and regional small arms control instruments. The Regional Centre has contributed to these efforts with its technical expertise and practical assistance.

5. The Regional Centre supported States in their review of national small arms legislation and in their adoption of public policies to address the proliferation of illicit small arms, thus helping them to mitigate the rise in armed violence. To assist in the implementation of relevant international and regional instruments, the Centre developed training materials containing technical guidelines on small arms tracing, such as evidence management procedures. It also developed standardized import/export control measures for Central American States. The Centre continued to assist in building the capacity of security sector officials of countries in the

Caribbean and Central and South America to combat illicit small arms trafficking and to strengthen weapons destruction and stockpile management.

6. Recognizing the important role of women in the area of disarmament, the Regional Centre organized a women-only training course in Central America to strengthen the technical capacity of female security sector officials to engage in small arms investigative techniques, weapons destruction and stockpile management.

7. The Regional Centre also promoted the implementation of various disarmament and non-proliferation instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the Biological Weapons Convention, through legal and technical support to Caribbean and Andean States.

A. Public security programme

1. Technical assistance in weapons and ammunition destruction and stockpile management

8. By providing technical assistance, specialized training and destruction equipment, the Regional Centre supported States in their destruction of surplus, obsolete and confiscated weapons, in compliance with international instruments and norms, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

9. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre improved its standard operating procedures, based on the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. The Centre applied the Standards in assisting States in the region in improving the management of weapons inventories, recording the loss or recovery of weapons, assessing risks and adhering to security requirements during destructions.

Small arms and ammunition destruction

10. The Regional Centre provided technical assistance to five States in the destruction of 8,181 surplus, obsolete or confiscated small arms during the reporting period. The Centre monitored the destruction processes and ensured that international standards were followed, since national destruction measures and techniques vary from country to country. In addition, the Centre trained more than 120 officials of Caribbean and Andean States on international procedures for documenting, planning, implementing and monitoring small arms destruction operations in general.

11. In the Caribbean region, the Centre provided hydraulic shears to Suriname, in July 2013, and Guyana, in January 2014, to destroy 693 and 4,079 weapons, respectively. The Centre also provided training on the safe use and maintenance of the shears in order to ensure the sustainability of the national weapons destruction capabilities of those States.

12. The provision of equipment and related training by the Regional Centre contributed to sustaining national capacity in destruction operations in the

Caribbean region. The Bahamas and Jamaica continued to use the equipment provided by the Centre in weapons destruction activities, bringing the total number of weapons destroyed since the inception of the Centre's subregional programme, in 2010, to more than 46,000.

13. In the Andean region, some 3,013 small arms were destroyed by the Government of Peru, in December 2013, with the on-site support of the Regional Centre. This assistance included monitoring and verifying the destruction process to ensure its alignment with international standards for weapons destruction.

14. To ensure the destruction of ammunition in an environmentally friendly manner, the Regional Centre provided Caribbean States with reusable small arms ammunition/pyrotechnic burning tanks, which allow the destruction of ammunition and explosives to be conducted with minimal environmental impact and the most efficient use of resources. A total of 3.7 tons of ammunition was destroyed in four Caribbean States during the reporting period.

Stockpile management

15. Stockpile management is an important component in combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. The Regional Centre assisted Member States in the region in improving the infrastructure of stockpile facilities and developing safer procedures, thus mitigating the threat of accidental stockpile explosions or diversion of weapons ammunition into illicit markets.

16. The Regional Centre held a training workshop, in Peru, in April 2014, for operational security sector personnel on improving stockpile management procedures. The training workshop aimed to align the stockpile facilities of Peru with the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

17. In cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Argentina, the Regional Centre conducted assessments based on the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines on the management of small arms and ammunition at the facilities of the federal forces, in November 2013. This assessment resulted in several reports containing recommendations on how to improve stockpile infrastructure, implement standard operating procedures and strengthen personnel training. The project, financed by Argentina, also led to discussions with government authorities on potential frameworks for standardizing the marking of weapons and ammunition.

Standardized marking practices

18. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security of El Salvador in organizing a seminar in November 2013 to facilitate national dialogue among policymakers and technicians on the standardization of small arms and ammunition marking practices. El Salvador has applied, in its standardized marking practices, the regional marking guidelines developed by the Centre in 2013, which contain recommendations for standardized primary and secondary markings of small arms and their ammunition.

Armoury management

19. Making use of the training centre jointly established in Port of Spain, in June 2013, by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Regional Centre, 37 officers from 13 Caribbean States were trained on stockpile safety and security through two subregional courses, in November 2013 and June 2014, and one national course, in March 2014.

20. In this regard, the Regional Centre adopted a "train-the-trainers" approach to enable trained participants to share their acquired technical knowledge with their fellow officers, following the completion of the course. As a result of this approach, trainees from Trinidad and Tobago delivered 80 per cent of the course curricula during subsequent national courses.

2. Capacity-building through training

Inter-institutional law enforcement training

21. The Regional Centre implemented its award-winning inter-institutional training course on combating illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives for 84 security sector officers, in Suriname, in October 2013, and El Salvador, in November 2013. Participants were trained on cross-cutting issues related to gender awareness, child protection and the use of force. Officials later reported that their ability to effectively gather intelligence, manage a crime scene and trace and prepare evidence in criminal proceedings was bolstered by this training. The course also contributed to building the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean States to implement the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, as well as related regional instruments.

22. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and General Assembly resolution 65/69, and in recognition of the critical role that women play in disarmament and arms control issues, the Regional Centre conducted a training course for 40 female security sector personnel in El Salvador, in November 2013. This training aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of female officers to engage in investigative techniques and intelligence, weapons destruction and stockpile management. It also contributed to improving cooperation among the participating law enforcement institutions, including the judicial sector and the public prosecutor's office, to effectively implement laws and policies aimed at small arms.

Small arms and ammunition evidence management: specialized training for the judicial sector

23. In response to requests from States for specialized training to help their judicial sectors address illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives, and thus contribute to a reduction in impunity and armed violence, the Regional Centre held three national courses for judicial officers and legal practitioners, in the Dominican Republic, in September 2013, in Belize, in March 2014, and in Guyana, in May 2014. Through these training courses, participating legal practitioners increased their knowledge of the normative aspects involved in small arms control, such as national regulatory frameworks, and technical aspects, including ballistic information and chain of custody. Participants also took part in a mock trial

involving a small arms trafficking case. Following course completion, the training manual was placed at the disposition of the participating institutions as a resource for the formulation of firearm policy and operations. It is noteworthy, that 45 per cent of the participants of the three legal training courses were women.

3. Legal assistance and policy support on small arms control

24. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre developed 10 comparative legal studies containing recommendations for Member States of the Caribbean region on how to align national legislation with existing international and regional legal instruments. These legal studies served as the basis for normative aspects of small arms control during the regional legal seminars later organized by the Centre in Suriname, in October 2013, and Belize, in March 2014.

25. The Regional Centre conducted a seminar in the Dominican Republic, in September 2013, to promote inter-institutional coordination and the establishment of a national commission responsible for combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. The seminar, which coincided with the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, addressed issues related to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and the mechanisms in place to tackle this public security challenge. The seminar also served as a platform for dialogue on improving the current legal framework, with a view to adopting legislation related to small arms in the country.

26. The Regional Centre worked closely with the National Commission Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials of Peru in support of the efforts of Peru to implement the Programme of Action on Small Arms. The Centre organized a national training workshop on small arms control for officials from the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use of Peru, in October 2013. The Centre also provided support to a small arms destruction event in Peru in December 2013.

Support to disarmament campaigns

27. To support Guatemala in its elaboration of a national disarmament campaign, the Centre organized a workshop with the Government of Guatemala, in November 2013, for members of Congress and executive branch officials to discuss the main components of two new bills on small arms and light weapons At the request of Guatemala, the Centre provided recommendations on measures to align the bills with the relevant international and regional legal instruments.

28. The Regional Centre joined forces with the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Population Fund in a three-year, multi-agency project aimed at strengthening human security and community resilience by fostering peaceful coexistence in Peru. The Centre will focus its activities on armed violence reduction initiatives, in particular, on support to disarmament campaigns and oversight of destruction activities at the local level. This inter-agency initiative is a good example of the United Nations system "delivering as one" to enhance coherence and effectiveness in its efforts to assist member States in achieving security and development.

29. The Regional Centre's synergized work with other United Nations agencies in helping States to address their priorities regarding national public security was reflected in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process in Belize, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. The Centre's work is an integral component of the United Nations country team's efforts regarding security in the region.

Public security outreach

30. Responding to an increasing number of requests from federal and provincial government entities, academic institutions and other United Nations agencies, the Regional Centre provided advice and assistance in matters regarding public security, ranging from private security to transnational organized crime, with a focus on disarmament and arms control issues.

31. In 2013, the Regional Centre provided input on normative regional experiences on the regulation of private security companies during an expert group meeting on State oversight of civilian private security services in a seminar held in Austria, in July 2013. The Centre contributed to the 2014 introductory handbook of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on State regulation related to civilian private security services and their contribution to crime prevention and community safety. The Centre also contributed to the Central American dialogue on small arms interdictions within the context of implementing the security strategy of the Central American Integration System, during a workshop organized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the United States and the Integration System's secretariat, in El Salvador, in July 2013.

32. The Regional Centre, upon request, provided technical support during a national workshop to address the mechanisms and measures to control small arms and ammunition, in Peru, in August 2013. At the request of Crime Stoppers International, the Centre shared its conceptual proposal on a typology for better understanding the phenomenon of illicit small arms trafficking, at the thirty-fourth Annual Crime Stoppers International Conference, focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean region, held from 29 September to 2 October 2013, in Barbados.

33. Invited by the provincial government of Santa Fe, in Argentina, the Regional Centre led a dialogue on United Nations standards and regional best practice for small arms control and armed violence reduction, with particular focus on stockpile management, at an event to discuss comprehensive approaches to small arms control programmes at the provincial level, in March 2014.

34. The preliminary findings of the Regional Centre's exploratory research on stray bullet shootings and recommended measures to mitigate their impact were presented during the regional review conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, held in Guatemala, in April 2014. The final findings were presented at a side event organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs to review progress made on implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, during the Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in June 2014.

Support to the Arms Trade Treaty

35. At the request of Member States, the Regional Centre expanded its small arms control capacity-building tools to include an Arms Trade Treaty implementation support package aimed at promoting ratification and implementation of the Treaty in the region. The package includes an introductory course for arms import/export controls personnel from customs, police and defence forces, as well as from civil aviation and port authorities.

36. The Regional Centre developed a model end-user certificate, drawing on international standards, including International Small Arms Control Standards, and best practices from various regions. The model end-user certificate is geared to serve as a reference tool for the standardization of control measures in the region, in line with the Arms Trade Treaty obligations. The development of these documents drew upon consultations with Member States, regional organizations and experts.

B. Promoting the implementation of multilateral instruments related to weapons of mass destruction

1. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

37. In response to requests by Caribbean States to improve export control systems, including legislation and policies, aimed at impeding non-State actors from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, the Regional Centre designed and developed a new Caribbean programme. The programme contains the technical tools and legal assistance that Caribbean States need to effectively implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and advance dialogue on regional control lists and licensing protocols, and offers technical advice on reforming current national legislation.

38. The programme seeks to support the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its group of experts in their role of facilitating technical assistance and strengthening the implementation of the resolution at the national and regional levels. The programme also complements relevant efforts undertaken by the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations.

39. The first phase of the programme focused on five Caribbean States: Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The second phase, in 2015, will include additional countries in the subregion.

40. Under the programme, the Regional Centre produced two comparative legal studies, one for Grenada, in April 2014, the other for Trinidad and Tobago, in June 2014, containing recommendations for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). These recommendations were formulated on the basis of the Centre's findings and consultation with the participating Member States. As a follow-up to the legal study for Grenada, a legislative road map outlining the steps to implement the recommendations was prepared during a national technical round table in that country, in June 2014.

2. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

41. At the request of Peru, the Regional Centre provided substantive support to a national workshop for government officials on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Production of Peru, in September 2013.

42. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, supported the drafting of a proposal to incorporate, in the new penal code of Ecuador, criminal penalties for illicit activities relating to biological and chemical weapons and for the manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives. The initiative aimed to support the newly established national entity in Ecuador responsible for the implementation of the Convention and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

43. The Regional Centre collaborated with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre to provide legal assistance to Colombia, in March 2014. This joint assistance contributed to the progress made in the country to establish a national entity responsible for monitoring and promoting implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Finances

44. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations for its core and programme activities. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre's Trust Fund were received in the amount of $1,264,201.[1] The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Centre's donors for their continued financial support, in particular the Governments of Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. These contributions enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, upon request.

45. The Secretary-General also wishes to express his appreciation to States of the region, including Argentina, Guyana, Mexico, Panama and Peru for their financial contributions to the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General is also grateful for the in-kind contributions received by Argentina, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago. The Secretary-General continues to encourage direct financial contributions to the Centre from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

[1] Argentina ($51,995.94, of which $35,998 was received through the United Nations Development Programme); Germany ($292,322); Guyana ($1,034); Mexico ($5,000); Panama ($1,000); Peru ($30,000); Spain ($20,349); the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ($52,500); and the United States of America ($810,000).

46. The Regional Centre also benefited from close cooperation and joint undertakings with other key partners, such as the Caribbean Community, the Central American Small Arms Control Programme, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Small Arms Survey, the Organization of American States, UNDP, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the United States and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. These partners provided the Centre with both in-kind and financial contributions, as well as cost-sharing agreements, that greatly assisted the implementation of activities.

47. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all States and partners for their generous financial contributions to the Regional Centre and encourages ongoing support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical assistance and advice to Member States, upon request, in fulfilling its mandate. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for 2013 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Staffing and administration

48. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre hired a programme coordinator in order to consolidate the team of experts charged with delivering its Caribbean programme, which is aimed at bolstering subregional implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Centre also strengthened its team of experts specialized in small arms through the hiring of legal advisers, small arms control experts, ammunition specialists and others, in order to expand its technical assistance to Member States, as requested.

49. The Regional Centre continued to implement its 2013-2015 strategic plan, which encompasses the strengthening and sustaining of its public security programme and activities, as well as expansion of its disarmament assistance in support of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

V. Conclusion

50. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook more than 55 substantive activities in the fields of public security and disarmament and arms control. There was an increase in requests from Member States and partners in the region both for assistance on practical disarmament activities and for support to measures to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

51. The Regional Centre provided assistance to Member States through its integrated approach to combating illicit small arms trafficking throughout the region. Activities included legal assistance and policy support on small arms control; technical assistance in weapons destruction and stockpile management; and capacity-building and training for security sector personnel, including a women-focused training course on combating illicit small arms trafficking. The Centre expanded its technical assistance to Member States, at their request, to new areas, such as bolstering national capacities for small arms tracing evidence management and import/export controls, with a view to promoting effective implementation of international and regional small arms instruments, as well as the Arms Trade Treaty. Finally, in response to requests for assistance by States, the Centre developed a new

subregional legal assistance programme to support Caribbean States in their implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and continued to collaborate with partners in providing legal assistance to Member States to enable them to improve their implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

52. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to Member States and other partners, in a position to do so, to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States, to ensure that it can continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experiences in their joint efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament at the regional, subregional and national levels.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2013

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2013	**2 287 848**
Income	
Voluntary contributions	1 228 203[a]
Funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	35 998[b]
Interest income	16 442
Total income	**1 280 643**
Expenditures	1 216 688
Programme support costs	158 169
Refunds to donors	2 136[c]
Total expenditures and refunds	**1 376 993**
Reserves and fund balance, 31 December 2013	**2 191 478**[d]

[a] During the reporting period, contributions totalling $1,228,203 were received from Argentina ($15,998), Germany ($292,322), Guyana ($1,034), Mexico ($5,000), Panama ($1,000), Peru ($30,000), Spain ($20,349), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ($52,500) and the United States of America ($810,000).

[b] Funds received from the United Nations Development Programme.

[c] Represents refunds to the Government of Germany.

[d] Consists of reserves and fund balance as at 1 January 2013, plus income received in 2013, less expenditures incurred and refunds made during the year.